

THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER

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UNEMPLOYMENT IS INCREASING

In the industrial East there is already a vast number of unemployed people and that number is daily rapidly increasing. The onward sweep of this industrial unemployment is rapidly moving upon us of the west, and we feel the effects of it just about the same if it exists in New York and Massachusetts as if it exists in Missouri. We are all one great industrial family, and if mills close in the great manufacturing states and throw hundreds of thousands of men out of employment, hundreds of thousands of farmers in the Missouri Valley participate in the consequences. And the people in St. Joseph, Omaha and Kansas City and Des Moines and the hundreds of our cities and towns participate, too, in equal proportion. Every man steadily employed at good wages can buy, for his own and his family's use, what they need and want of what we jointly produce. Every man unemployed is forced to reduce his buying to a minimum, and our products go begging in his particular market.

Did you ever stop to think why periods of unemployment come, from time to time?

It is because people, either from choice or necessity, stop buying things.

When the retailer can't sell goods he stops ordering from the jobber. The jobber stops ordering from the manufacturer. Orders already placed, regrettably, are frequently cancelled. The manufacturer, with no market for his wares, closes down his mills. His men are out of jobs. Because they are out of jobs many other men are out of jobs too. The railroads reduce their forces. The storekeeper gets along with less help. Every man or woman discharged goes, perforce, hunting for somebody else's job. So wages begin to come down, and lower wages join with unemployment to diminish buying power, and so still further to punish the producer who makes a living and a profit by selling at a good price the things he has to sell.

Commerce and industry are carried on largely on credit. Credit is kept "liquid," and so plentiful, when buying and selling go on unimpeded and plentifully. When buying stops money gets "tight." Those who borrowed money to carry on their business can't pay it back unless the business goes on—unless they can sell the things they produce or deal in. Deposits in banks fall off. The banks, unable to realize on their loans, can't extend needed and further credits. Even flourishing businesses, unquestionably sound, are thus forced to curtail, because of the slump in buying, and they, too, reduce the number of their employees, and diminish their expenditures in every way feasible.

A year ago or more people were buying not only abundantly but wastefully. They were unaffected by prices. Indeed, the higher the price, the more desirable the article. They wanted "the best" and the measure of the best was the highest price. Another measure, too much invoked, was luxury—the intrinsic worthlessness of the article—the extravagance of the purchase. Hundreds of thousands of workers and producers were drawn, in consequence, from essential production to the production of non-essentials. The effect on essential production was such that it soon skyrocketed, and there threatened to come a time when none of us could afford to pay the price for the things actually needed.

That was a year ago. Today, partly as a result of that debacle of foolish spending, and partly as a result of the working of popular psychology, we have the opposite extreme. The extreme of a year ago threatened disaster ultimately, though it brought widespread prosperity for the time being. The extreme of today also threatens disaster ultimately, and brings adversity to the while it is threatening. When, for whatever reason, even the people who can afford to buy refuse to do so, the inevitable consequences are the unemployment, the tight money, the lack of credit, the business hardships, the soaring prices, that we see all about us.

In this little exposition we are not venturing to assign the blame for

conditions. We are merely trying to make it plain why the conditions exist. Regardless of reasons, this fact stands out prominently: We aren't going to get back to prosperity, to jobs for everybody, to profitable prices for the farmer, to expenditures for building and extensions and new enterprises, until people begin buying again—not wastefully, but normally. With two or three million men out of employment, and the number promising to increase, wages and salaries of all kinds are not going to be kept anywhere near present figures unless buying on the part of those who have wages and salaries and other incomes to spend helps to put the unemployed back to work.

We want to get our thinking caps on straight. We want to understand that every man's business or industry depends, ultimately, on all the other men's businesses and industries; that every man's wage or salary depends on every other man's wage and salary. They all go up together, and they all come down together. If everybody wastes, waste will ruin us. Conversely, if everybody hoards, hoarding will ruin us. Wasting and hoarding alike is poisonous to the common welfare.

THOSE "BRIGHT MINDS" AT MARION

"We discussed the whole gamut of national and international troubles without arriving at any definite conclusions," said Mr. Hoover, after his conference at Marion with Mr. Harding.

What conclusions could be arrived at there, even if Mr. Harding were capable or desirous of reaching conclusions? "The best minds" that Mr. Harding is now consulting are capable of giving him various advice; but when he has finished with them he must do business with congress, and in particular with the senate. The senate is not composed of "the best minds." At times it seems to have no collective intelligence whatever to say nothing of collective responsibility; but it has this power, and it is with the senate's power that Mr. Harding must reckon.

Mr. Hughes has been to Marion, but Mr. Hughes does not control the vote of a single republican senator. Most of them would treat him respectfully by reason of the fact that he has been governor of New York, a justice of the United States supreme court and the republican candidate for president; but we doubt if there is one of them who would be influenced by any advice he gave in regard to the foreign and domestic policies of the Harding administration.

Mr. Hoover has likewise been to Marion, and Mr. Hoover's influence in the United States senate is even less than Mr. Hughes'. It approaches the irreducible minimum. There are senators who would eagerly vote against anything that Mr. Hoover favored, but we are unable to name a senator who would vote for anything that Mr. Hoover advocated because he advocated it.

Mr. Root has gone to Marion too, and Mr. Root is the ablest man in the republican party. His is the strongest and most powerful intellect within the party councils; but thus far Mr. Root has not succeeded even in persuading Mr. Harding himself that the United States ought to respect the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and the number of republican senators who could be swayed by Mr. Root to take an enlightened view of the foreign situation is small indeed. The heroes of the Battalion of Death are hardly less antagonistic to Mr. Root than to Mr. Wilson, although they are usually less abusive in their references to him than in their references to the president. And while Mr. Root was at Marion, the assembly of the league of nations adopted his plan for an international court which Mr. Harding has already rejected.

The more that Mr. Harding talks with "the best minds" at Marion, the more inevitably the talk will reveal a party that is hopelessly divided so far as any matter of principle is concerned. Mr. Harding is compelled to grope in the dark for a program because he and other republican senators under the sinister leadership of Mr. Lodge repudiated republican traditions and republican policies in order to wage a partisan warfare against President Wilson.

The kind of league of nations that Mr. Wilson brought back from Paris is the kind of league that eminent republicans have advocated for years. Mr. Roosevelt once urged it. Senator Lodge himself had championed it. Mr. Taft and Mr. Root were heartily in favor of it. It was not until Henry Cabot Lodge and his associates in the senate decided to wreck the league in order to gratify their partisan hatred of President Wilson that the fundamental idea of the covenant and the treaty ceased to be republican doctrine.

In order to follow Mr. Lodge the republican party has been obliged to turn its back on principles of foreign policy that it has sustained for more than twenty years, and poor Warren

G. Harding is left to wander around in the fog trying to find something tangible that he can grasp. The whole performance would be comedy if circumstances had not made it tragedy.

WILL HARDING INVITE GOV. COX?

Will President-elect Harding invite Gov. Cox to participate in any of those conferences now being held at Marion? If not, why not? Gov. Cox made a most graceful overture in the case of Senator-elect Willis, and Mr. Harding might reply with an invitation to "come over and give me your views about the league."

Governor Cox talked about the league all through the campaign. His first utterance was in favor of going in. He was then asked about reservations, and replied with that indefinite phrase about "interpretive reservations." Pressed further, he showed a willingness to be liberal in the matter, and toward the close of the campaign, when he was bidding high, he expressed a willingness to sit down with the republican senators and go to the root of the whole league proposition. He wound up in a very compelling frame of mind.

Although twitted by his opponent and others with shifting his foot from time to time, Mr. Harding held to one position on the league. His main proposition was that the league as negotiated by the president would never do; that the question had been very much complicated by the president's action, and that he, Harding, had no plan; that, if elected, he would do what the president had failed and even refused to do, sound sentiment on the subject, and particularly sentiment in the senate, before moving in the premises. That he is now doing.

Governor Cox and Mr. Harding are old acquaintances, and a confab between them at Marion on this subject of subjects, about which they contended as candidates so strenuously for several months, would arouse the liveliest national interest.

TAKING THEM AT THEIR WORD

A test of gallantry made in Chicago would meet with just about the same response in St. Joseph—for conditions are about the same here. In the Chicago case a newspaper of that city started a man out with \$50, accompanied by an elderly woman carrying a market basket. They were to ride the street cars until a man should get up and offer the elderly woman a seat. Then this man was to be given the \$50 as a prize for his politeness. The pair rode on elevated and surface lines for four hours before the prize was bestowed.

The rule of "women first" does not seem to be less observed on St. Joseph street cars than it used to be, but there have been occasional intimations that the country over, men have not recently been as considerate of women in this particular as they formerly were.

If it is so, why is it so? Who will make complaint? Some, who have accepted it to be a fact, offer a very plausible explanation. After a long campaign for woman suffrage and a continuing campaign for the wider woman movement known as feminism, there can be no doubt that the general relation between the sexes has been somewhat changed. Men's attitude toward women has changed. Women's attitude toward men has changed. The leaders in the woman movements wanted a change, whatever it might involve, and they have expressly declared and reiterated that, speaking as they assumed to do for the whole sex, women no longer wanted any special privileges on account of sex. They wanted no concessions from men, no patronizing by men. They wanted to stand in all respects on equal terms.

Perhaps the Chicago incident only shows that the change is making progress and that the number of men is already considerable who have taken the women at their word.

THE SILVER LINING TO THAT CLOUD

That it is a trifle late to spring a most painful subject such as the result of the late election on our democratic friends, we are surely aware, but the fact that so far as we are able to recall it was the damndest lick ever given to a so-called major party, makes it a subject which we cannot well dismiss or forget. If any person can cite a dander licking let him at once arise and speak.

But let democrats give way to undue despondency we hasten to supply the silver lining which is the sole excuse for this article. It will be noticed that Wisconsin, which went the heaviest republican of all the states, was able to roll up only a puny four to one vote for Harding.

Look from Wisconsin to a state where the democrats showed what they can do if they try. We refer to South Carolina. South Carolina gave Harding 2,822 votes and Cox 63,940! Nearly twenty-five to one for the gallant standard bearer of the deathless

democratic party! By the side of it Wisconsin's four to one for Harding looks skinny indeed. By the side of South Carolina the republican majorities everywhere are hardly worth mentioning.

There is no reason for discouragement. What South Carolina democrats can do democrats can do anywhere else—if only they want to. The trouble was, in the late election, they didn't want to. They wanted a change. They're getting it. In a measure heaped up and overflowing, and they're finding they didn't want it even one-half of 1 per cent as much as they thought they did.

Everything indicates, dear democratic brothers in affliction, that every state will be a South Carolina by and by. So tighten your belts, spit on your hands, and cheer up! Truth can be crushed to earth but she can't be held down.

PENROSE HAS DISCOVERED SOMETHING

The Republican senate has a grand and gloomy old boss in Boies Penrose and it will probably sound peculiar to hear that he arose in his seat the other day to remark that everything has gone to the dogs, that "the future outlook is disastrous" and that "we have nearly reached a point in the United States when we are being taxed to the point of destroying the sources of revenue." Such being the case, we respectfully suggest that Senator Penrose and his colleagues ought to go to work.

Senator Penrose is chairman of the senate finance committee. Every tax bill passes through the hands of that committee, and it is in reality the autocrat of the finances of the United States. It is the unique distinction of this particular republican congress that it will have passed three general appropriation bills during its lifetime. The appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1919, were the victims of a republican filibuster in the closing hours of the Sixty-fifth congress, and the republican Sixty-sixth congress took over the job. It likewise passed the appropriations for the fiscal year from July 1, 1920, and will make the appropriation for the year beginning July 1, 1921.

This republican congress has been in session most of the time for nineteen months, and it is refreshing to learn that Senator Penrose, who is the master-mind of the senate, has discovered that there is something wrong about taxes and expenditures. In the course of the next three or four years possibly our republican friends in congress will decide to "do something about it."

OF COURSE PENROSE ACCEPTS OUR ADVICE

While we have no special license to give advice to Senator Penrose, still we are going to hand that big dog boss a little, taking our cue from the Topeka Capital, which on Tuesday printed this significant and interesting paragraph:

"Senator Penrose warns the republican party that it is on trial, and reminds republican senators that some of them would never have had a show for re-election except in a landslide. The green statesmen at Washington are getting a lot of wholesome advice from the old timers."

Evidently Senator Penrose will soon be as well known by his own party as by parties with which he has always been at warfare.

To those who know Senator Capper, the paragraph indicates a frame of mind that is far from pleased with the Pennsylvania solon's slam. Our advice to Senator Penrose is to tread softly during the next year or two. His reluctance to appear as a leader in the Harding administration would not only give the progressives no chance to bolt, but it also might save the new president a great deal of trouble.

Our advice, probably, will be as closely followed by Senator Penrose as is his advice by young "upstarts," to whom it was directed.

WHY NOT FOR FATHER?

Why does not some one come to the front for father, instead of this continual spew that we hear concerning the tragedy of the dear old lady whose golden hair is beginning to sprinkle with the silvery variety?

Why does nobody seem to appreciate the sadness that must bear down on father when the barber says: "By George, brother, you're getting a lot of the white babies around your ears!"

It is the husband's business to jolly his wife along as far as possible during the years when she is changing from young to old, but who—we ask—does that job for him?

Everywhere he goes somebody calls attention to the hint of gray on his temples, and to the fact that there are funny little wrinkles back of his eyes. They wouldn't dare tell his wife that!

Why pick on papa? Chances are he's earned those silver threads and wrinkles and things, just as much as did his faithful wife.

At any rate, he didn't order any gray hairs around his ears, and probably will refuse to commit himself on the subject until he sees his lawyer.

A woman can camouflage, but what chance is there for a man?

REDUCING THAT BEASTLY MAJORITY

Thank Heaven! we can all feel better—in fact we can exult and cavort—and why?

Just because those figures that the New York World made and which were supposed to be absolutely authentic and which disclosed that Harding had a beastly plurality, have been found to be incorrect through an error made and instead of Harding having a popular plurality of over 7,500,000, all that he was able to scrape up was a mediocre measley 6,995,361. The total unofficial vote, as thus revised, was 26,589,357.

A plurality reaching toward 8,000,000 looked scandalous. Held under 7,000,000 it looks much better. If the campaign had had two or three more years to run, Harding would have been lucky to be elected by a beggarly million or two.

It is about time to call a halt on this maudlin mush with which the columns of the daily papers have teemed for the past two weeks relative to the doings of the much exploited Mrs. Clara Smith Hamon. There is not a man in St. Joseph that would be caught walking up Felix street with the woman, or a society woman in St. Joseph who would invite her to her home. There is too much of such "rot" in the papers at present.

The welfare board secretary says that there is a greater demand for help this year than ever before. And these are the same people who for the past two years have been drawing tremendous big salaries—and spending every cent of it in silk shirts at \$20 per, and Kayser silk hose at \$10 per throw. The real facts in the case is that such people are not entitled to either help or even sympathy.

If the plan of John Melang, the \$5,000 a year state highway engineer, are carried out as per the present information which is before the public, the rural counties of the state with the exception of a very few will wish that they had changed their votes on the \$60,000,000 good roads bond proposition. In the version of one of St. Joseph's former statesmen, there "will be nothing left for Saltzman," as far as they are concerned.

The afternoon paper states that there will be a "clean sweep" at the county farm when the county court meets today—and we will just add that the new people who will be "swept in" will all be gods of time tried and fire copper tested vintage.

The owners of the railroads say that they will ask for no further increase in rates. Well, as long as all that they have to do is to ask Uncle Sam for it and get all that they want, it does not look as though there should be any necessity of raising rates.

It required over two columns of newspaper space on Monday to tell of the killing of a noted New York gunman. Had the dead person been a good business man or citizen he would probably have received four lines.

Editor Bagby of the Craig Leader says that in four years the gops will have spent the big democratic balance now in the state treasury and have the state in debt beside—and Editor Bagby is no fool!

That thousand-dollar-a-plate banquet in New York tonight for the benefit of the poor children of the Old World will be all right if too much money is not expended in "promoting it."

As there is no more booze, you cannot swear off this year—but you can highly resolve to be less, steal less, and cheat less—if you are so addicted—and many of us are.

The faithful gops will flock to Jefferson City next week at \$27.19 per. Wonder if our St. Joseph colonels will have on new \$500 uniforms as regulations demand?

The city detective force is making it a little more difficult for auto thieves to operate in St. Joseph—which is a much needed improvement.

Despite the fact that it was a bad year on account of high prices of labor and materials, St. Joseph did a fair share of street improvement.

We are anxiously awaiting the advent of Col. Philley, Col. Altshouse and the other St. Joseph "Colonels" in their natty \$500 uniforms.

The dispatches say that the tax forms for the federal income tax will

be "ready soon." Probably too soon for many people.

When it becomes necessary to go to church to fight, it would be well for the fighters to leave their prayer books at home.

If you are a gop you should not fail to attach yourself to the "Office Seekers Special" bound for Jefferson City Jan. 10.

There were the usual number of Christmas tree fires and as a result many whiskerless Santa Clauses.

Here's betting two-to-one that the state public service commission raises St. Joseph street car rates.

Four years from March 4 the gops are not going to feel half as enthusiastic as they do today.

Do not forget in 1921 to give in your taxes properly—for they are going to be needed.

Today is the day of all days—the day that those Christmas bills come in.

Now write it 1921—for you must, or you are entirely out of date and tune.

What the Missouri Editors Are Saying

Knows the Situation

A Jersey judge has decreed that no wife shall serve on the same jury with her husband. He evidently wants his juries to agree.—St. Louis Times.

Will be as Sorry as You

Mr. Democrat, don't be too hard on your republican neighbor; he will soon be as sorry of it as you are.—Clinton County Democrat.

No Wonder He Wonders

Jud Tunkins says one of the most remarkable things about ultra modern dresses is the way women manage to get on a street car without tearing 'em asunder.—Kansas City Times.

Billy Is Noted for Thrift

Billy Sunday was for Harding, but then Billy is opposed to a Heaven on earth. However, he'll trade you promises of mansions in the skies for the cash down any time.—Clinton Democrat.

And Get Real Shooters

Several hundred thousand men making a living by hold-ups and burglaries. About time for some of the sharpshooters to practice marksmanship on these fellows.—Worth County Times.

And They Deserve It

Some of the fellows who went to the cities on account of the eight hour day, now find themselves lucky if they get work enough to make an eight hour week.—Worth County Times.

If They Can "Handle" It

The Chicago police have decided to try a curfew to combat crime there. It might work if every citizen could be equipped with one and learn how to handle it quickly enough.—Kansas City Post.

Soap Is Not so Bad!

And after the fifteenth of February Uncle Sam says the drug stores can't sell "Jake" as a beverage only upon a doctor's prescription. What are we going to drink now, soft soap?—Milan Standard.

Another Step Toward Open Shop

In New York City last week 16,000 clothing workers were "laid off" by the clothing manufacturers of that city. This is another step in the direction of the open shop. It has to come and the wise should take notice and plan accordingly.—Boonville Advertiser.

Has Followed His Orders

"A man who used to be a street car conductor in Chicago was awarded Nobel prize for literature for 1920," notes the Joplin Globe. "Seems to have taken his own oft-repeated advice to 'move up toward the front, please.'"—Clinton County Democrat.

For Shame! For Shame Deacon!

"Maryville Chickens Win Prize," is heading in Monday's Maryville Tribune. We have never thought Maryville girls extra good looking, so the prizes won may not have been for beauty but for laying in bed late in the morning. Some chickens!—Hopkins Journal.

Trying to Hog Some More

Members of the states legislature appointed to visit state institutions, say the state university is preparing to ask for an appropriation of four million dollars for 1921-22. The M. S. U. has never been distinguished for modesty in the matter of asking

for appropriations, but four millions is surely going some.—Glasgow Missourian.

Might Think It Over

Looking the situation over with an unprejudiced eye, doesn't the National Reform Association honestly think more blue sky laws would be better than more just blue laws?—Kansas City Times.

Father Getting Worst of It

It looks to us like father will soon have to begin to borrow from mother. It used to be that Mr. Farmer used to be the whole cheese on the farm and Mrs. Farmer had to do all the borrowing. Now one dozen of eggs are selling for almost as much as two bushels of corn and father has begun to wonder where he is going to get his "pocket change" under these Republican "normalcy" times.—Milan Standard.

How Did They Duck It?

January, 1921, income tax time, is rolling around again. Last available statistics on income tax returns show that although 4,425,114 Americans stepped forward and admitted that their income was as much as \$2,000 a year, if married, or \$1,000 a year, if single, a total of 5,400,000 somehow were able to own and operate motor cars they admitted were pleasure vehicles. How did they do it?—Missouri State Journal.

The Poor Old Star!

If Mr. Harding fails to name General Wood for secretary of war we can imagine what a bitter disappointment it will be to the Kansas City Star. When the Wilson administration declined to send General Wood to Europe to take command of the A. E. F. the Star started a war of its own on Mr. Wilson and it has never let up for a minute since then, which is a way the Star has when it fails to get what it wants.—Glasgow Missourian.

The British Fizzled

At last it has been officially decided that the much talked of victory of the British fleet in the naval battle at Jutland was not a victory but a failure. Had the British gone boldly in as Dewey did at Manila the world would have been ended sooner and the submarine menace would have suffered a serious check. Beatty, in command, seems to have thought more of saving his ships than of smashing the enemy, and a cold, critical analysis of his performance shows that both Beatty and Jellicoe were awarded praise where criticism was due.—Glasgow Missourian.

The "Farmers" Who Voted For Harding

Democratic farmers voted for Harding because they were told his election meant a big jump in the price of wheat and corn, cattle and hogs. Wall street and stock speculators voted for him because they were sure it meant a rise in stock values. Since Harding's election the depreciation in the farmers' products and the gamblers' stocks amounts to several hundred millions of dollars. There are a great many folks in the United States who are beginning to think something was put over on them.—Boonville Advertiser.

To Fight Open Shop

Union labor is said to be raising a fund of \$20,000,000 with which to fight the open shop movement. They doubtless will succeed in gathering that amount from the unions, but they must realize that they have a fight upon their hands and one that cannot be purchased. This country is too large and the nation too free to be dictated to by any class, mass or organization, and the time is now to curb the unreasonable demands and exactions of the laboring class. New York is at present listening to some of the inner workings of the union. Contractors are testifying that they are paying thousands upon thousands of dollars for protection against the demands of the union.—St. Clair County Democrat.

Bothering Our St. Joseph Colonels

Governor-elect Hyde is experiencing an embarrassment which was never felt by any of his Democratic predecessors. The newspapers tell us he has already selected his staff of colonels, and has notified them of the great honor which he saw fit to confer upon them. But the gentlemen named find it is necessary to spend \$500 to secure the uniform and equipment, and here they are balking. Possibly some of the mutts are not kicking so much over the \$500 as they are afraid of the unsettled conditions of affairs in Mexico, Germany, Russia and Turkey, that if they accept the commissions they might wake up some morning and find themselves called to get over there post haste. So we don't know whether it is a sense of economy or fear that is causing the hitch.—Boonville Advertiser.